Dearly loved Counsellor Omid,

Just few days before your arrival for the Institutional meeting in Nov.2012, Mr. Shogita daas met the undersigned and shared a kind of unheard and unbelievable story of his wife Mrs. Rajesh's relationship with his long time best friend Mr. Gopalakrishan. Mr. Gopalakrishna is married to Ms Reena who is currently serving as Board member and they have 7 years old son and Ms Reena is also carrying now and she is expected to deliver another baby by April. Mr. Goplakrishnan served as Board member and also as State Coordinator until Nov.2011. Mr. Shogita Daas is married to Ms Rijesh who is from Kannur Cluster for almost 10 years and they moved to North Parvur Cluster as Home front pioneers after their marriage. They have 8 years son and 5 years old daughter. Mr. Shogita Daas served as Coordinator of the N Parvur before moving to settle in Cochin with his family as the Caretaker of the Baha'i Center since 2008. He also served briefly as State Coordinator for BCC. Mr Shogita Daas also informed that Nandan is not her daughter but it is result of the relationship. I managed to recover from the shock to ask few questions as follows

A-When he came to know about this relationship and how and why he did not stop his wife?

He told me that he had doubt for over 6 years, since she would be on phone for long time with him and later she would erase the calls. But he strongly felt around 2 years ago when all of them (2 families and kids) were sleeping in office room of the Baha'i center during a state conference in 2010 and midnight when he got up to drink water he found his wife with Goplakrishan. He told me that he still did not believe it and later on he found them together in many occasion. His wife had confessed to him about his relationship and also told him that their daughter is from Goplakrishanan and she is in love with him and would like to go with him. Mr Shogita Daas told me that since she had decided to go with Goplakrishana and in order to protect the kids and also interest of the Faith, he kept quite but told both of them to formalize their relationship. He had informed his wife's parents about this new development. Her father had told her that she has no right to go back to his home and if he finds her at home he would cut her into pieces. Her mother was in state of shock. Mr. Shogita Daas told me that his wife and Mr Goplakeishan got married in Hindu Temple sometime in July 2012. He also bought new camera and he took photos of their marriage just to show as proof in case she commits suicide since she had made some attempt earlier. He gave me photos he had taken. His 8 years son knows everything and he would not like to be away from him. He further added that he and Rijesh got separated legally. Just for the sake of son he was living under one roof and cooking his own food etc.

B- To my question of how he can be sure of Nanada not being her daughter and his attitude towards her and he replied that he consider her like her own daughter and she calls him father. But he added that both of them, namely his wife and Goplakrishana have told him that she is their daughter. He also mentioned that his wife would get angry with him for small issues and they did not live like husband and wife for many years.

C-Why he did not inform the institutions earlier when he was aware of this unholy relationship for some years? He told me that he was in state of shock and did not know what to say and how to say and he admits that it was big mistake for not informing this relationship earlier to the institutions. He also added that Goplakrishana wife, mother, sister are aware of this issue. It seems all of them had decided to keep this subject secret. Mr. Shiju was only other person apart from members of the family knew about this issue.

It was very very shocking to hear this sad story and It was very difficult to drive back home at that day. I got some relief after discussing the matter with you and as per advice and guidance I started talking to others to learn more about this tragic story.

I met Ms Reena and inquired about her husband's not coming for the meetings etc and as usual she told that he was busy starting his business. I went deeper and finally she started to share about his relationship with Mrs. Rijesha. She added that when she went home for delivery of her son around 7 years, she had some uncomfortable feeling that

something is wrong with both of them and she also told that she never doubted him with others although he used move with many Baha'i youth. She added that around 2 years ago it was confirmed beyond any doubt that they are in touch with each other and she also told that Goplakrishanan informed her that Nanada is her daughter. I asked her how come it was business as usual and she would continue the same warm relationship with Rijesha which seemed that you had no object for this unacceptable alliance of your husband with wife of his best friend. She broke down in tears and she told that she just wanted to continue to serve the Faith and did not want to make it big issue so that believers would know about it. She also told that all 4 of them had meeting to keep this matter secret and more so from me since Goplakrishana told her he does not want me to know it. I asked her if she was aware what was really going on and its serious implication in terms breaking spiritual, social and legal laws by a person who was a state coordinator and was charged to make a difference for betterment of the people of Kerala and also a person served full time as an Auxiliary Board member. I told he was full time for the Faith and misusing the facilities of the Center which is meant to be used for the spiritual undertakings. I asked her how he can get married in Temple while you are his wife and he continues to live with you. She replied that she was not in agreement and on that particular day he also drank alcohol because he was very tense.

Next I met Goplakrishanan and he did not know that I am aware of the issue and when called he immediately came for meeting. As he saw me very angry he asked me what is the matter and I told him I wished either I or you were dead for not facing such huge disgrace. I asked how he could miss use trust of his own long time friend which is socially, legally, and spiritually un-acceptable. I told him as Board member and state Coordinator you were charged to serve the people and this is what he did instead. I asked him you were sent to many seminars, conferences at all levels to build your capacity and this is how you responded. I also told him that I invested so much on you to work with youth and build their capacity and now they do not how to face this spiritual test you created for them across Kerala. He broke down and told that the relationship started by mistake around 6 years ago for sometime and both of them prayed and stopped the contact. But it was re started again two years ago when he declined to be Board member again in 2011.He also stated that physical contact resulted in having baby girl. I told him if it was mistake then you should stop this non sense and go back to your family and pray very hard and seek forgiveness for letting down your son who is unaware of happenings, wife and mother. He could not sit for long and left the room.

I spoke to Mrs Rijesh who came reluctantly. She knew that I am aware and she had to come to know from Goplakrishanan. She also stated that all started by mistake and I told her if it so please go back to your family and take care of your two kids and husband. She pointed out that Nananda is Goplakrichan's daughter and I told her how does it make it difference and she does not know what is happening and if Mr Shogita Daas accepted and treats her like her own daughter and she calls her dad. At this point she told that she can not accept Shogita Daas as husband and can not live together as husband and wife. She also told that they are legally divorced. I asked her how as mother you can stay away from your son and why your son should suffer his whole life due to your mistake for which she did not reply. She seemed to be like stone hearted person and as mother showing no reaction at all. I asked if she had problem with Shogita daas and she replied no.I asked her she needs to stop contact with Gopalkrishanan and go back to her own home if she does not want to stay with her husband and give time to think about everything with prayerful attitude. At this stage she had to go since it was getting late.

I had session with Mrs. Reena and Goplakrishanan's mother together. Goplakrishanan knowing that I am going to their home and he had left home. His mother knew something but not aware of the full story and she was also keeping away from me since she had told Reena she can not face me. I requested Gopla's mother to use her authority and put in place her son at this very late hour and let's try so that he can stick with his family and she can go back to her family. I also requested her to talk to Mrs Rijesh's mother and to ask her to take care of her daughter and not allow her to break another family. I also asked Reena to talk to Rijesh very strongly and also to her husband to behave well. These measures had limited success since Rijesh agreed to go back to her home if not happy to stay with Shogita daas.Goplakrishanan was also under intense pressure during this time. I also spoke to Goplakrishanan sister who is also an Auxiliary

Board member and asked her to put pressure on her brother to stick to his family and not to break another family. She seemed to beliking her only brother irrespective of his conduct. I told her if tree does not bear fruit it is useful for fire and if a brother is to bring shame to the family and the Faith having no such brother is much better. I asked her why she had taken care of Nanadan during school holiday in December and I told her I have no problem with little girl who does not know what is happening but she is being used by both Goplakrishana and Rijesh to stay together.

I had another talk on phone with Goplakrishanan and later on I met him. I asked him to stop this connection which has no future for you and for her as well.You are married and well settled and she either can go back to her husband or can think of some one else since she is young. He brought again the case of the baby and I told him why are totally ignoring your son and the status of pregnant wife. Of course you can help her in many ways with out her knowing and further more why do you want to separate her from her brother with whom she is growing up. I asked if he has any problem with his wife and that is why you are looking for some one else and he replied that Reena wants to serve the Faith. I asked him if you have an objection if she wants to serve the Faith and I told as Baha'i husband you should be happy that your wife has such noble attitude. He told me he does not want to tell me lie, he cannot stop the connection immediately with her since she has left everything because of me. I told him go back to her and say sorry for the false promise given to her and save your family and probably her family as well.

When I was travelling Reena called me to say that he has once again actively started his connection with her which includes staying overnight at her place. Reena also seems to be helpless and accepted the situation as it is and she has kept this secret from her family as well. I told her to disclose with her brother at least if she thinks her mother can not take the pain.

I checked with legal point of view and what Mr Goplakrishan has done is legally unacceptable and he can be tired for his second marriage while being in wedlock.

All efforts under your guidance were made to bring this matter to some kind of socially acceptable level and to avoid it is huge negative impact to the society at large and more so to the Baha'i community. These families are spread to 6 clusters across Kerala. I was very much worried how the friends will take it and recently we were doing Book 8 and got lot of strength and realized how strong the instrument of the Covenant is.